

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) An apparatus for removing a sheath on an optical fiber cable, the apparatus comprising:
  - a body having a central hole, the body being split for positioning around the cable;
  - first and second opposed cutting blades having cutting edges protruding from the body into the central hole, said cutting edges facing the cable, said blades being positioned at a cutting angle to a transverse plane of the cable;
  - first and second adjusting screws rotatably mounted in said body for urging said first and second cutting blades toward said cable;
  - first and second continuity test circuits for testing electrical continuity between a metallic sub-sheath of the cable and corresponding ones of the first and second cutting blades; and
  - a cable stabilizer bushing for contacting and aligning said body, said bushing having a central hole for accepting the cable, said bushing further having a plurality of elastomeric rollers extending into the hole for rolling on the cable, said bushing being split for positioning around the cable.
2. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the cutting edges of the cutting blades are elliptical.
3. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a locking clasp for locking said body on the cable.

4. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the cable stabilizer bushing further comprises first and second locking clasps for locking said bushing on the cable.

5. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a jumper wire for connecting the continuity circuits to the metallic sub-sheath of the cable.

6. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the continuity circuits each comprise a battery, an indicator light and a continuity lug for connecting a jumper wire.

7. (original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the indicator light is a green LED.

8. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising first and second blade retainers slideably mounted in the housing body and contacting corresponding adjusting screws; said blade retainers having blade stops for backing up said cutting blades.

9. (original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said first and second blade retainers further comprise magnets proximate said blades for retaining said blades during removal and insertion of the blades to the body.

10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) ~~The method of claim 10, further comprising the steps of:~~  
A method for removing a sheath at a mid-sheath point on an optical fiber cable, the  
method comprising the steps of:

clamping a cutter body around the cable;

turning a first adjustment screw to advance a first cutting blade into the sheath until a first continuity circuit indicates that there is electrical continuity between the first cutting blade and a metallic sub-sheath of the cable;

turning a second adjustment screw to advance a second cutting blade opposing the first cutting blade into the sheath until a second continuity circuit indicates that there is electrical continuity between the second cutting blade and the metallic sub-sheath;

advancing the cutter body in a longitudinal direction along the cable, whereby the first and second cutting blades remove portions of the sheath;

clamping a cable stabilization bushing around the cable; and

maintaining alignment of the cutter body by contacting the body with the cable stabilization bushing.

12. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 10~~ claim 11, further comprising the steps of:

assembling the first and second cutting blades on magnetized blade supports; and inserting the blade supports into the ~~housing~~ body.

13. (canceled)

14. (currently amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 13,~~

An apparatus for removing a sheath on a cable, the apparatus comprising:

a body having a central hole;

a plurality of opposed cutting blades having cutting edges protruding from the body into the central hole, said cutting edges facing the cable, said blades being positioned at cutting angles to a transverse plane of the cable;

a plurality of adjusting screws rotatably mounted in said body for urging corresponding ones of said cutting blades toward said cable;

at least one continuity test circuit for testing electrical continuity between a metallic sub-sheath of the cable and the cutting blades; and

    further comprising a cable stabilizer bushing for contacting and aligning said body, said bushing having a central hole for accepting the cable.

15. (original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said bushing further comprises a plurality of elastomeric rollers extending into the hole for rolling on the cable.

16. (original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said bushing is split for positioning around the cable.

17. (currently amended) The apparatus of ~~claim 13~~ claim 14, further comprising a jumper wire for connecting the at least one continuity circuit to the metallic sub-sheath of the cable.

18. (currently amended) The apparatus of ~~claim 13~~ claim 14, wherein the at least one continuity circuit comprises a battery, an indicator light and a continuity lug for connecting a jumper wire.

19. (currently amended) The apparatus of ~~claim 13~~ claim 14, further comprising a locking clasp for locking said body on the cable.

20. (currently amended) The apparatus of ~~claim 13~~ claim 14, wherein the cutting angles are each about 45 degrees.

21. (currently amended) The apparatus of ~~claim 13~~ claim 14, wherein the cutting edges of the cutting blades ~~are elliptical~~ have a curved shape.